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Rothbury Rural District Council.

Report

OF THE

Medical Officer

FOR THE

Year ending, December 31st, 1905.

Rothbury:

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ROTHBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

—— For the Year ending December 31st, 1905.——

Rothbury,

January 23rd, 1906.

To the Rothbury Rural District Council.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Allow me to lay before you this my Tenth Annual Report to your Council, it being my Twenty-ninth to the Sanitary Authority, and such relating to the year ended December 31st, 1905.

The number of Births registered was 114, this being the average for the last ten years. Estimating the population at 4,855 for the year, this gives a birth rate of 22·47 ; the average rate having been 23·75 per 1,000 per annum. The rate for England and Wales (Rural) for the year 1905 is 26·3.

Of these 114, there were 60 males and 54 females. They were registered during the different quarters as follows : the first, 21 ; second, 28 ; third, 35 ; and last, 30. Longframlington with 8, was below its average of 14 ; whilst Netherwitton was above, partly due to an extension of the Waterworks just within this district, and the Limeworks at the White House. The other districts were about their usual average.

In all, there were 62 Deaths registered during the year, which is at a rate of only 12·8, and is very satisfactory ; your average being 14·8, while that for England and Wales (Rural) in 1905 was 14·9.

Of these 62, there were 36 males and 26 females. They occurred during the months as follows : January, 5 ; February, 7 ; March, 11 ; April, 4 ; May, 5 ; June, 2 ; July, 9 ; August, 3 ; September, 0 ; October, 3 ; November, 2 ; December, 8. Three being registered in the January, which occurred in the December of the previous year.

As there were 114 births registered and there were 62 deaths, it follows that the difference of 52 was naturally added to the population during the year, and this in each 1,000 would be at a rate of 10·7, being a little above the average of 9·4 ; that for England and Wales being 12·0.

It appears that only four infants died during the year whilst in the first year of their existence, and as during the same period 114 were born, it follows that the Infantile death rate is only 34·8 per 1,000 born, being a great improvement upon your average of 104·0, while that for England and Wales is 128 (Rural, 113).

The following are the different periods of life at which the deaths occurred, viz : below one year of age, 4 ; one and under five, 3 ; five and under fifteen, 2 ; fifteen and under twenty-five, 1 ; twenty-five and under sixty-five, 25 ; above sixty-five, 27, being nearly one half of the total. Of these 27, five were over 80 years of age (two being 88), fourteen others were from 70 to 80, and eight others between 65 and 70.

The following table shows the number of deaths occurring in each of the Ecclesiastical Parishes (or a part of such) as are contained in the Union, together with the rate per 1,000 of its population :

	Deaths. Rate.		Deaths. Rate.
Rothbury (Rural part of Parish)	17—12·0	Alnham and Brinkburn	3—8·33
Alwinton	18—21·0	Cambo and Elsdon ...	8—14·0
Whittingham	7— 9·0	Longhorsley and Netherwitton	2— 5·0
Longframlington ...	7—14·1		

As the rate for the entire District is 12·8, Alwinton, Longframlington, and Elsdon were each above that, while Whittingham, Rothbury, Alnham, Brinkburn, Longhorsley, and Netherwitton were below. The rate for Alwinton for the two previous years was only 9·3 and 7·0. whilst Longframlington was 19·1 and 21 3 for the two previous years.

Under the heading of the Zymotic class of diseases (being those classed as Epidemic), there was only one death, viz., Scarlet Fever. This is at a low rate of only ·20 per 1,000 ; that for England and Wales being (Rural) 1·09.

Other causes of death were as follows : *Influenza*, 3 ; *Phthisis* (Consumption), 5, being at a rate of 1·03 ; that for the last nineteen years being 1·48. Other *Tubercular* diseases caused 2 ; *Cancer*, 3 ; *Bronchitis*, 7 ; *Pneumonia*, 2. Making nine for the diseases of the chest other than Phthisis, and being at a rate of 1·9, as against your average of 2·0. *Alcholism*, 1 ; *Premature Birth*, 1 ; *Heart Disease*, 10 (being about the average) ; *Accidents*, 3 ; *Apoplexy*, 6 ; *Debility at Birth*, 1 ; *Senile Decay*, 10. All other causes being 7.

Influenza was decidedly more in evidence throughout the year than of late. It accounted directly for three of the deaths, and doubtless for several of the large number of deaths from Bronchitis and Pneumonia, and also some of the deaths attributed to Heart Disease were due to its ravages upon the constitution.

The *Accidents* were due to Burning, 1 ; Motor Carriage, 1 ; and fall over the rocks, 1. *Inquests* were held on each of these, with verdicts of "accidental deaths." The rocks were better protected since.

There were no deaths among *strangers* in the district, and no proceedings before the Magistrates.

The number of cases of Infectious diseases notified during the year was thirty-one. with only one death, viz., *Scarlet Fever*. *Erysipelas* was returned in two cases. One of *Typhoid Fever*, contracted before the patient's arrival at Burradon ; it might have been contracted at

Carlcroft, where the drain was blocked by a tin (it being opened out), although the patient appears to have not been well previous to his visit there. Isolation and disinfectants were used, with a trained nurse, all care being taken, and it did not spread any further.

Scarlet Fever was notified in twenty-eight cases. These occurred : 9 in Rothbury (Rural part of Parish), 7 in Whittingham, 3 in Alwinton, and 9 in Longhorsley and Netherwitton districts. In nearly all the cases they were imported into the districts in the first instance, often by the travelling hawkers. Visits and inspections were made, instructions and disinfectants given, isolation and care insisted on, and fairly well carried out. Your Inspector attended to the disinfection of the houses afterwards. With one exception (a solitary case at Caistron that ended fatally), they were all mild cases, and recovered. This mildness of type may have helped in some of the cases spreading, by causing less care being taken.

During the inspections, the following unsanitary conditions were found : At CAISTRON, the drain opens too near the cottages. At CLENNELL STREET several unsanitary conditions were pointed out. At LOW TREWHITT, the same, but the pigstyes were removed, drainage improved, ash middens also. The water here is not very reliable, failing in a dry summer. At WINGATES MOOR, the water is being brought now in iron pipes, being a great improvement. It is to be taken to the farm house and cottage, and the privy, etc., will be improved. At the PEELS, the blacksmith's cottage needs a properly constructed ash midden and privy ; the water supply also needs attention.

There were a few cases of *Diarrhœa* during the year.

Measles were imported in May to Kirkhill, but with care, did not spread.

Whooping Cough was also brought to the Garrett Lee in July, but with care, did not spread.

The following Sanitary Improvements have been effected during the year, viz. :—At WHITTINGHAM LANE, a good supply of water has been brought by gravitation in iron pipes, from near Thrunton. WINGATES, water is being pumped up, by means of wind power, from a spring to the village ; being the removal of a long standing complaint. PEELS, the blocked drain has been opened out. LEE COTTAGE has been better drained. LITTLE MILL and WAG TAIL have also had the drainage rectified. PLAINFIELD, the drainage has been greatly improved, and thus better protected the water supply. HIGH FARNHAM farm house drainage has also been much improved. ALNHAM, much has been done, practically new sinks and drains to all the cottages, and houses spouted. A proper water supply is being considered. CASTLE HILL sanitary needs are being provided. ALWINTON, stable floor cemented and drained, it being under a part of dwelling house. ALWINTON (Low), the cottages put in proper sanitary condition and now re-occupied. ANGRYHAUGH, sanitary requirements have been provided. BARTON (Middle and Low), sinks, drains, and sanitary requirements have been provided. CAISTRON cottage, earth closet has been provided. CROSS HILL, the blocked drain at the farm cottages has been rectified. GALLOWFIELD, the same. ELSDON, the school drain has been disconnected, by a trapped interceptor, with the main sewer. HEALEY, new drainage provided. HIGH TREWHITT, much good work has been done. Good new sewer laid down, and byres, stables, and outbuildings re-connected properly with it, also the spouts provided with proper sinks and connected up afterwards. LOW TREWHITT, sinks and drains much improved, the pigstyes re-built properly away from the houses, and faulty ash middens rectified. NEWTOWN, a very great deal of good work has also been done. Drainage being greatly improved, buildings spouted and drained, the cottage provided with new sink and drain. At THROPTON, Mr. Weatherson has provided privies and ash middens for his cottages. TOSSON MILL cottages, the same, and also sinks and drains. The SNITTER sewage has been turned out of the seal hole in proper pipes. WINGATES MOOR, the water has been brought from near the spring head, in iron pipes, by gravitation and laid to the farm house and cottage. A very great improvement.

The following still require attention, viz. :—ALNHAM, a water supply, which is being considered. CAISTRON cottage needs sink and drain, and main sewer piped away some distance. CLENNELL STREET needs a good deal of attention. FORESTBURNGATE and HOLLING HILL both need improvement in the water supply. HARBOTTLE, the same. Mr. Fenwick Clennell is formulating a scheme, which it is to be hoped will be successfully carried out. LEE FARM needs the pond, etc., drained away. LITTLE TOSSON practically needs all sanitary requirements. LOW TREWHITT'S water calls for attention. The PEELS, the same. Here also a properly constructed privy and ash midden are needed at the blacksmith's cottage, and the same at the cottages. THROPTON MAINS sewage, discharging into the seal hole, needs to be rectified. TOSSON MILL house needs a proper sanitary sink and drainage.

Your Inspector (Mr. Clarkson) has given attention to all the above, and accompanied me on the following inspections, with results appended, viz :—WHITTINGHAM, the Reading Room requires spouting at the back ; Mrs. Battenby and Mrs. Johnson, ash middens faulty in construction. Mrs. Wightman, needs properly constructed privy and ash midden near the house. R. Dickinson, the same. Three ash middens and privies being too full were emptied after notice. WHITTINGHAM LANE has now a good water supply, brought in iron pipes by gravitation. A long felt need. T. Henderson needs a proper sanitary sink in front of house. BARTON (Middle and Low), have been provided with proper sanitary conveniences since the inspection. LONG FRAMLINGTON. The water supply was at times slightly deficient. Four taps were found to be faulty and were mended on remonstrance. Twelve persons received notice to empty their privies and ash middens, which were too full. This was attended to by them. Nine houses were empty, and four others re-built since the inspection of last year. One was entirely new built with all sanitary requirements. There are no dairies, but ten persons kept cows for the selling of the milk. These were all tidily kept, except Mrs. Walby, who was cautioned, and removed the manure heap. J. Anderson has had the privy roof mended and the broken tap. Spouting and drainage are required at

the same, and also James Gladstone's, G. Cameron's, the same, with sink. ONSTEAD requires all sanitary arrangements to three cottages R. Dixon's stable floor needs cementing and drainage. Menzies' drain and sink at back of house are faulty. Mrs. Walby needs an ash midden, J. Common and Wardle need ash midden roofed.

WATERWORKS. Three new cottages have been built. The sanitary needs have been well attended to during the year.

There were no proceedings taken before the Magistrates.

Under the Workshops Act, I inspected the premises of the blacksmiths, at Long Framlington and Thropton, and also a tailor's and dressmaker's at Whittingham. There was no cause of complaint at any of these.

The Hospital for Infectious Diseases was not used during the year.

I am indebted to Mr. Bertram, of *Cragside*, for the following Table of Rainfall for the year.

JANUARY	0·57	inches.
FEBRUARY	1·20	,,
MARCH	2·18	,,
APRIL	3 23	,,
MAY	1·05	,,
JUNE	1·21	,,
JULY	0·68	,,
AUGUST	4·94	,,
SEPTEMBER	2·24	,,
OCTOBER	4·31	,,
NOVEMBER	6·88	,,
DECEMBER	·89	,,
TOTAL ...	29·38	

Thus, in all 29·38 inches of rain fell, as against 25·25 last year; the average being about 34·0 inches. There were about 157 wet days, as against 155 of the year before; and the hours of sunshine were 1,543, as against 1,430 the previous year.

Your obedient servant,

F. BARROW,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS

In the Rothbury (Rural) District.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Deaths One Year of age.		Deaths at all ages. Total.		Deaths of Non-Residents registered in District.	Deaths at all ages. Nett.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate.*		Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1891	4891				Separated in 1896.					
1895	4830									
1896	4790	131	27·29	10	76·33	81	16·85		79	16·45
1897	4770	112	23·0	14	125·0	56	11·69		53	9·0
1898	4750	115	24·2	11	95·65	88	18·41		87	18·20
1899	4730	114	23·5	10	88.0	60	12·26		59	12·06
1900	4710	115	24·4	16	139·1	95	19·8		89	18·54
1901	4690	96	20·47	11	114·6	67	14·3		64	13·66
†1902	4770	99	20 9	10	101·0	64	13·40	1	59	12·36
1903	4780	133	27·82	12	90·22	69	14·44		65	13·60
1904	4820	111	23·10	10	90·9	60	12·5		56	11·66
Averages for years 1895-1904.	4800	114	23·75	12	104·3	71	14·8	0·1	68	14·16
1905	4855	114	22·47	4	34·8	62	12·8	..	62	12·8

* Rates in columns 4, 6, 8, and 11 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.
† Waterworks started.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water	166,959
Total Population at all ages	4,689
Number of inhabited houses	1,041
Average number of persons per house	4·5

TABLE OF CAUSES OF, AND AGES, AT DEATH, during Year 1905, in Rothbury (Rural) District.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined ages.							Deaths in Localities (at all ages).						
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Rothbury Parish (Rural).	Whittingham.	Long Framlington.	Alwinton.	Alnham and Brinkburn.	Cambo and Elsdon.	Long Horsley and Netherwhitton.
Scarlet Fever	1			1				1						
Epidemic influenza... ...	3					2	1	2			1			
Phthisis (Pul Tuberculosis)...	5				1	4		1			3		1	
Other tubercular diseases ...	2			1		1			2					
Cancer, malignant disease ...	3					3		1		1		1		
Bronchitis...	7	2	1			2	2	3			2		1	1
Pneumonia	2					1	1	1	1					
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of liver	1					1					1			
Premature birth	1	1											1	
Heart diseases	10					2	8	2	2	2	2		2	
Accidents	3		1			2		1				1	1	
Apoplexy	6					3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Debility from birth ...	1	1									1			
Senile decay	10						10	4	1	1	2		1	1
All other causes	7		1			4	2			2	5			
All causes	62	4	3	2	1	25	27	17	7	7	18	3	8	2

TABLE OF INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1905.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	6-7 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes (Certified) ...	1	1	2	1	1	4
Premature Birth	1		1			1
Debility		1	1			1
Bronchitis				1	1	2
Totals	1	1	2	1	1	4

District of Rothbury (Rural).

Population estimated to middle of 1905, 4,855.

114 Births in the year { legitimate, 111. / illegitimate, 3.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 62.

TABLE OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the year 1905 in the Rothbury (Rural) District.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole District.						Total Cases notified in each Locality.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.											
		1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards	Rothbury (Rural part of Parish).	Whittingham.	Longframlington.	Alwinton.	Alnham and Brinkburn.	Cambo and Elsdon.	Long Horsley and Netherwitton.
Erysipelas	2				2		1						1
Scarlet Fever ...	28	8	13	2	5		9	7		3			9
Enteric Fever ...	1				1					1			
Totals	31	8	13	2	8		10	7		4			10

ISOLATION HOSPITAL near Whitton, in the Rural part of Rothbury Parish, provided with 12 beds.

TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS OF SEPARATE LOCALITIES IN 1905 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Names of Localities.	ROTHBURY (Rural part of Parish).				ALWINTON.				WHITTINGHAM.				LONGFRAMLINGTON.				ALNHAM and BRINKBURN.				CAMBO and ELSDON.				LONGHORSLEY and NETHERWITTON				Strangers
Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births registered	Deaths at all Ages	Deaths under 1 year	
1891 ...	1358				1034				879				450				365				522				282				Included
1895 ...	Created in 1896					11	4	1		17	6	0		19	8	2		8	8			13	5			7	2	2	
1896 ...	1321	32	30	3		29	15	2		20	11	1		20	7	3		8	8	1		17	10			5			2
1897 ...	1302	29	19	2	Diminished 154	19	7	2	Diminished 92	19	10	6	Increased 19	16	5	1	Diminished 3	7	3		Increased 42	11	6	1	Increased 79	11	6	2	3
1898 ...	1293	37	29	3		19	19	2		18	17	2		8	7	2		6	4			20	8	1		7	4	1	1
1899 ...	1284	32	15	4		14	5	1		22	18	3		15	9			8	4	1		16	6	1		7	2		1
1900 ...	1275	23	28	3		29	17	4		14	11	2		10	14	2		7	9	1		22	9	5		10	4		6
1901 ...	1266	28	23	4	880	15	10	2	787	13	10	2	469	14	10	1	362	5	3	1	564	10	5	1	361	11	5		3
1902 ...	*1350	29	19	4		16	11	1		18	7	1		8	13	2		2	2			17	6	2		9	1		5
1903 ...	1380	39	22	6	860	22	6	2	770	22	10	0	470	15	10	1	360	5	5			18	8	3		12	4		4
1904 ...	1420	42	19	3	860	14	8		770	10	10	1	470	14	9	3	360	6	2		570	10	5	2	370	15	3	1	4
Averages of Years 1895 to 1904	1380	32	22	3·5	930	18	11	1·7	800	17	11	1·8	470	14	9	1·7	360	6	5	·4	550	15	7	1·6	350	9	3	·6	Not included
1905 ...	1420	32	17	2	860	16	18	1	770	18	7	0	470	8	7	0	365	9	3	0	570	17	8	1	†400	14	2	0	

* Waterworks started.

† Extension of Waterworks.